

1AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 JAN 2006

Amended Claims

1. A device for reducing the oxygen content of ballast water on a ship (1) where ballast water is introduced into the upper part (14) of a downcomer (12), whereby a pressure drop arises, especially in the upper part (14) of the downcomer (12), facilitating the release of gases from the seawater, the separated gas being able to leave the seawater after flowing through the downcomer (12) together with the seawater,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the upper part (14) of the downcomer (12), that is situated well above the ship's (1) deck, is directly connected to a water supply pipe (10), and where the downcomer's (12) lower party is communicating with the ship's (1) ballast compartment (4).
2. A device according to Claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the upper part (14) of the downcomer (12) communicates with a gas pipe (15), where the gas pipe (15) is arranged to deliver nitrogenous gas to the downcomer (12).
3. A device according to Claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the lower part of the downcomer (12) is coupled, preferably in the horizontal direction, to the upper part (18) of a vertical separating pipe (16), wherein the upper part (18) is coupled to an extraction pipe (20) at a slightly higher level than that of the point of connection of the downcomer (12) to the separating pipe (16).
4. A device according to Claim 3,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the connection

between the downcomer (12) and the separating pipe (16)
is tangential.